

# Cross Connection



Growing Together

March  
2026

## Cross Lutheran Church & School

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Pigeon, MI 48755  
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### Our mission:

*Bring people to  
Christ.*

*Teach Christians  
to be disciples.*

*Send disciples to  
reach the world.*

.....  
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*“8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

*- Philippians 2:8-11 -*

**Hosannah! Hosannah!** The crowd cried out as Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. The word hosannah combines the Hebrew word for “to save” with the Hebrew word for “please” or “now,” creating a powerful and urgent request. The Jews gathering for the Passover in Jerusalem cry out to Jesus, “Please save us! Save us now!” They shouted hosannah as a political acclamation, seeking deliverance from Roman rule. They didn’t understand what kind of Savior Jesus is.

Jesus was nothing like the savior they were expecting. They expected Jesus to have some sort of large army. They expected Jesus to demand the attention, respect, and honor of his loyal subjects. And every knee would bow at the name of Jesus, but not in this way. No. Jesus arrived in this world through humble means, and he would continue his ministry and death through the same humble means. This king would take on the form of a servant, not the image the Jews were anticipating of a fighting rebel against the Romans.

Jesus came as a human being, experiencing thirst and hunger, exhaustion and pain. He came to serve others, not himself. He bent down and washed his disciples’ feet. And he remained obedient, obedient unto his death. Death is rarely glamorous, but death for many is at the very least respectful. That was not the case for the King of Kings. Jesus would be humiliated as he was flogged, whipped, and stripped naked for all to see. He would be dishonored, despised, and rejected as he was nailed to and lifted up on a cross, executed as a criminal for everyone to witness, including his own mother, who once cradled him in her arms that first night in Bethlehem.

**Why did Jesus go through all of this?** He could have fled the scene at any time. No one would have blamed him for going off to the wilderness to pray, only to never return to the hatred that would be there to welcome him back to Jerusalem. Jesus went through the unthinkable because he knew it was the only way to defeat the devil, overcome death, and win the final victory for you. He did all of this because he loves you. We cry out hosannah—save us, Lord, from sin, death, and the power of the devil. And he does. He has the final victory!

## Preparing for Worship

### March 1st Second Sunday of Lent

1R – Genesis 12:1-9, P – Psalm 121, 2R – Romans 4:1-8,13-17, G - John 3:1-17

### March 8th Third Sunday of Lent

1R - Exodus 17:1-7, P – 95:1-9, 2R – Romans 5:1-8, G – John 4:5-26 (27-30,42)

### March 15th Fourth Sunday of Lent

1R - Isaiah 42:14-21, P - Psalm 142, 2R - Ephesians 5:8-14, G - John 9:1-41

### March 22nd Fifth Sunday of Lent

1R -Ezekiel; 37:1-14, P -130, 2R - Romans 8:1-11, G -John 11:1-45 (46-53)

### March 29th Palm Sunday

1R - Isaiah 50:4-9a, P - 118:19-29, 2R - Philippians 2:5-11, G - Matthew 26:1-27, 66

### Worship and Music Ministry Meeting Report February 3, 2026

Members Present: Mike Sting, Peg McCrimmon, Pastor Kevin Kaiser, John Trowbridge - Trustee, John Smith - Council President, Karen Schuette - Chair.

\*Paraments and Hymn numbers - Nothing to report on the paraments. Peg and Karen will work with Neil to fix the Advent Wreath and Hymn boards. Sources for numbers were discussed.

\*Procedures and frequency of Holy Communion were discussed. Action was tabled until March.

\*Ash Wednesday worship will be February 18, 2026 at 6:30 pm. Midweek Lenten worships will be held on the next 5 Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 pm.

\*Pastor Kevin's Installation service will be, Sunday, March 1, 2026 at the 9:30 am worship.

\*LBW Setting I will be used for our liturgy through Lent and Easter seasons.

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 AT 5:30 PM





**ANNIVERSARIES**

**3/7 Kyle & Nicole Buchholz**

**3/11 Brandon & Tracy Polega**

**3/16 Allen & Mary Collison**

**3/20 William & Debbera  
Schuette**

**BIRTHDAYS**

**3/2 Whitney Liebesking**

**3/3 Al Licht**

**Maureen Reibling**

**3/4 Mark Fritz**

**Larry Smith**

**3/5 Bonnie Schulz**

**3/6 Joshua Barry**

**Peggy Licht**

**Kevin Orlogge**

**Robin Stack**

**3/7 Leanne Schuette**

**Aaron Smith**

**Kierra Young**

**3/8 Ben Smith**

**Chat Sturm**

**3/11 Loranzie Deer**

**Jim Pionk**

**Johnathan Pionk**

**Alexis Schuette**

**3/12 Henry F. Lange Jr.**

**3/13 Brian Edler**

**Joshua Kunisch**

**3/14 Charles Schuette**

**3/16 Kolton Smith**

**3/17 June Sturm**

**3/20 Kyle Buchholz**

**Jena Zimmerman**

**3/21 Raylene Henkelmann**

**3/22 Alyssa Daoudiya**

**3/23 Danielle Irion**

**3/24 Emily Sturm**

**3/25 Emalee Osentoski**

**Wesley Trowbridge**

**3/26 Mary Collison**

**3/27 Matthew Egan**

**Nicholas Trost**

**3/28 Chris Eden**

**Lonnie Schulz**

**3/29 Hannah Harder**

**Jim Licht**

**Madden Smith**

**3/30 Jeff Buchholz**

**Roberta Danks**

**Kobain Smith**

**THOSE IN NEED OF  
CONTINUED PRAYER**

Carol Diener, Steve Schulze, Bernice Shupe, Rachel Higgins, Jim Siewert, Beth Elston, Brandon Fritz, Gene Parsell, Mike Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyer, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Noah Adams, Kay Schuette, Marvin Trost, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Marilyn Blunt, Robert Blunt Jr., Alan Licht, Richard Baranski.

**CROSS CHURCH SHUT-  
INS**

Vivian Buschlen, Cordelia Trost, Roberta Danks, Connie Eden, Marvin Trost

**THOSE IN SERVICE OF  
OUR COUNTRY**

Nicholas Swanson  
(US Air Force)



In memory of

Rober Tate:

- to the Church General Fund:

Carol Diener

James Laursen:

- to the Church General Fund:

Thomas & Bernice Shupe

-to the Church Building Fund

Sheila Yackle



## **SAVE THE DATE- CROSS FISH FRY!**

The date is Friday, March 20, 2026 and there are lots of roles to fill! How can you help? Placing flyers in Pigeon, Bay Port, Caseville, Elkton, Bad Axe, Sebewaing, and surrounding areas and businesses. Text Leanne where you are posting them.

Donations for fish, beans, oil, potatoes, coleslaw, paper products, and drinks.

We need someone or a few people working together to be in charge of decorating tables. Simple is good!

We need desserts, some packaged for take outs. (We are known for our wonderful selection!) There will be sign-up sheets on the welcome desk in the overflow.

Lots of help is needed with prep the day before, set-up the day of meal, serving and take out

stations, gym area, and clean-up after the event. Sign up sheets will be in the church overflow in February.

Come, bring your family, invite your friends and community, and enjoy the fellowship and meal!

If there are any businesses or persons that would like to donate, we will have a thank you printed as recognition of a donation or you can request to be anonymous.

Call or text Leanne Smith at 989-553-4241. In the past there have been many hands involved in this project and it has been a joy to see this event come together with so many working together in the Body of Christ. Proceeds for this event have been disbursed to Youth, Building Fund, General Fund, School, Daycare, Scholarship Fund, Hot Lunch, and Capital Improvement Fund. Blessings on the Journey, Leanne Smith

# CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

## COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, January 13, 2025



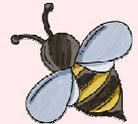
Attendees: John Smith, Kim Fritz, Kim Sears, John Trowbridge, Josh Barry, Peter Shupe, David Faupel, Kevin Stachowiak, Pastor Kevin Kaiser

**Absent:** Kim Delpiere, Miki thick, Al Licht

### Call to Order:

**Opening Prayer:** given by Pastor Kevin Kaiser

**Devotional:** given by John Smith



**Approval of Agenda:** Motion was made by Kevin S., 2nd by Kim S. Motion approved by Council Approval of Council Minutes from December 2025 meeting: David F., found a few corrections needed to be made. Motion to accept was made by Kevin S., and 2nd by Kim S. Motion approved by council.

**Presidents Report/Call Committee:** John S., spoke this past weekend with Pastor Abbott. Pastor Abbott congratulated Cross on their new Pastor.

**School Principal/Daycare Administrator Reports:** Principal/Teacher: David F., end of first marking period. No school on Jan 19th, Martin Luther King day. Basketball season is in full swing. Games are on Tues. and Thurs. A \$9380. Grant has been received from the State of MI for Safety. That money could cover the wage for school counselor for the school year.

**Day Care Administrator:** Miki Thick absent

### Officer Reports:

**Secretary/Communications:** Kim F. The church has received a letter of Thank you from the Lutheran Church of South Sudan for the donation of \$1858.

**Treasurers Report:** Kim S., reporting starting with a beginning balance of \$142,942.76 as of December 1, 2025 and an ending balance of \$152,733.48 on December 31, 2025. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Kevin S., 2nd by Josh B. Motion passed by council.

**School Board/Vice President:** Kevin S., would like to get the 5 year plan started, Meeting to be held Jan. 20 at 6:00pm. Would like entire council to be at meeting to get meeting started.

Meeting to be held Jan. 20 at 6:00pm. Would like entire council to be at meeting to get meeting started.

**Properties:** Alan L. absent John Smith asked for prayers for Al, during his treatment.

**Worship & Music:** John T. Review of Advent and Christmas services. All went well. Pipe Organ Committee looking at doing meetings by Zoom. Advent wreath stand is unstable and in need of repair. Neil Herford will repair it.

Mid-Week Lenten Services will be planned by Pastor Kevin and Mike Sting.

**Stewardship:** Peter S. No meeting yet in January Mission Outreach/Parish Life: Kim D., Working on getting a new church directory planned. Discussion about getting rid of old chairs being stored in the back room. To free up storage space. Asking council, if should sell or give away. Missions will be hosting coffee hour on Sunday Jan. 25 th .

**Youth Education:** Josh Barry

Jan. 4 th : Euchre card game and playing. 15 people attended.

Jan 7 th : Bible study began. 10 people attended. It is held on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

All books have been taken but more have been ordered.

**Old Business:** John Smith,

-New computer for sound system has been donated by an anonymous donor.

-Softener put on hold until after the CEA benefits dinner.

-Cable to lighted sign has been installed by Matt Zimmerman.

**New Business:** John Smith

-Parsonage furnace repaired and working.

-Church website being worked by Kathy Azarovitz and Paul Schuette, to keep it updated

-Pastor Kevin talking about recording and streaming services. He will talk with Kathy A. and get back to council.

-Get Pastor Kevin a church credit card. John S will go to Thumb bank and set up. Motion to approved by Kevin S. 2nd by Peter S. Motion approved by council. Pastor Kevin, gave a thank you to Cross for the wonderful welcoming. We have done for him and his family. So very much appreciated.

Motion was made to adjourn by Peter S. 2nd by Kevin S. Motion approved.

Lord's Prayer was recited by all, for closing.

Next meeting will be Feb.10 at 7:00p

Respectfully Submitted - Kim Fritz

From the Desk of Mrs. Ward,  
Greetings to you Church!

The school year has been going so quickly it seems. There has been so much activity here, it's hard to keep up sometimes. We have entered the second half of the school year and are nearing the end of the third quarter already. With all the snow and ice and cold we have had many added "vacation" days too. It's hard to believe it is already March!

February was a whirlwind of fun down on our end. Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day of school, we had Valentine parties, participated in the Cross School Olympics, finished auction items, and had Scheurer Healthy Kids come visit us. What a fun time of year!

Now March is beginning and with it comes Reading Month where we challenge the students to meet reading goals and reward them throughout the month. It's always fun to see the whole school getting involved in an activity together. We also will be celebrating Lutheran Schools Week the first week of March. Dress-up days are so much fun! And, as if we didn't already have enough extra fun going on around her, we will end the month with Spring Break!

While all this fun is happening, we do continue to learn and work hard to grow in our understanding and knowledge. The students are really doing well and it is a joy to see them taking off in their reading and math skills. Perhaps my favorite thing we do with the kids this time of year is to take time to pray for another student, our prayer partners. During the season of Lent we work to help the students learn to pray for one another and to grow in their understanding of what Jesus did for us while he was here on Earth. It is a beautiful thing to see children bow their heads and pray together bringing their requests before the Lord.

I hope you and yours are remembering to take time to reflect on what the Lord has done for us. He has been so good to us and loved us so very well. Sometimes, with all the busyness of life, I can get so wrapped up in the things I have to do and places I need to be, that I forget to take the time to stop and reflect on the One who has blessed me beyond measure. The One who gave up everything to teach me and love me and save me. He deserves so much more than I remember to give, and yet he loves me with an everlasting love. I hope and pray that He is on your mind, in your heart, and that you are allowing him to lead you as you go through this season.

May the Lord bless you all.  
-Mrs. Ward



## Youth and Education Notes

Ministry of Youth and Education met on Sunday, February 1, 2026. All parents and JH-HS youth were invited to attend. In attendance were Gwynne Barry, Jean Sturm, Kim Delpiere, Josh and Jen Barry, Pr. Kevin and Steffany Kaiser, Erica King, Michelle and Cole Walsh, Ethan, Allison, and Vicki Yackle.

Plans were confirmed for activities for JH-HS Youth for March, April, and May. Middle School-High School youth should make plans to go to Bad Axe Retrocade on Sunday, March 15. We will meet at Cross at 4:30 pm and travel together. Youth should also plan to volunteer at the Cross Fish Fry on March 20. On April 26, there will be a Pigeon Area Scavenger Hunt beginning at Cross at 4:30 pm and on May 17 we will gather at the parsonage.

Information was presented for the NALC Youth Gathering in Roanoke, VA July 7-10. All JH-HS and parents were sent the information prior to our meeting. Gwynne will follow up to see who is definitely interested.

A "Carnival" Event was discussed for Back to School for **all** youth from Cross Church and School.

Dates for VBS will be June 15-18, 2026. If no snow days need to be made up, June 8-11 may be considered.

Open Gym attendance grew over the weeks with as many as 20 attending. Open Gym continued through February with consideration for March dates also.

Wednesday Night Bible Study met until Ash Wednesday and then will resume after Easter as there will be Lenten services on Wednesdays. There are 10 people regularly attending this study. Anyone is still welcome!

Our next meeting will be April 12 after the church service.

In other news:

The FAT Tuesday event was attended by 49 PS-HS youth. We met in the sanctuary for worship and then moved to the gym for pancakes, crafts, donut decorating, and games. Many thanks to all who were involved!

Many thanks to those who teach Sunday School! There are opportunities for more people to be involved! Please consider signing up to teach our children or lead devotions/discussion with adults before or after church services. There are many ways to serve. Please talk to Gwynne about the possibilities!

In His love,  
Gwynne Barry

# School Board Report



**No meeting last month.**

**Next meeting will be March 5th.**

## March Calander

3/2-6 Lutheran School Week

3/7 3-6th Boys Basketball @ Mayville 10 am

3/14 3-6th Boys Basketball @ Akron- Fairgrove 10 am

3/15 Kids Sing in Church

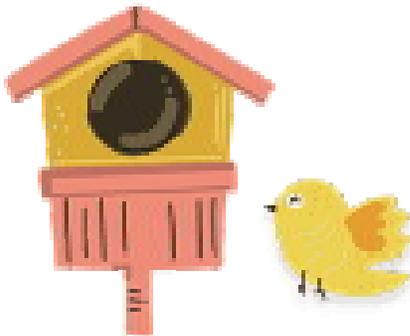
**3/20 1/2 day of school**

End of 3rd marking period

**3/23 No Laker Buses**

3/21 3-6th Boys Basketball @ North Huron 10:30 am

**March 30 - April 6th NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK**



# Fish Fry



Friday,  
March 20,  
2026  
5 to 7 p.m.

Meals include Fish, Baked Potato or Fries,  
Beans, Roll, Cole Slaw and Homemade  
Desserts

**All meals are \$15**

Cross Lutheran Church

200 Ruppert Street, Pigeon

This is a Thrivent Financial Sponsored Event.

Proceeds will support Cross Lutheran Church  
and School.

Dine in or  
Take outs  
Available!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SS 8:45am Communion Service 9:30am	2 Music & Worship 5:30pm Handbells 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm	3	4 Chapel 7:55am  Lint Service 7pm	5 School Board Meeting  Jean Quilters 1pm	6	7 3-6 <sup>th</sup> grade Boys @ Mayville 10am
8 SS 8:45am Worship Service 9:30am	9 Handbells 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm	10	11 Chapel 7:55am  Lint Service 7pm	12 Quilters 1pm	13	14 3-6 <sup>th</sup> grade Boys @ Akron Fairgrove 10am
15 SS 8:45am Communion Service & Kids Sing 9:30am Youth 4:30pm @Retrocade	16 Handbells 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm	17	18 Chapel 7:55am  Lint Service 7pm	19	20 ½ Day of School FISH FRY 5-7pm	21
22 SS 8:45am Worship Service 9:30am	23 Full Day – No Laker Buses Handbells 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm	24	25 Chapel 7:55am  Lint Service 7pm	26 Quilters 1pm	27 Field Trip Airborn 7:50-1:30pm	28
29 SS 8:45am Palm Sunday Service 9:30am	30 Handbells 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm	31	NO SCHOOL			